



Globe Local

BEVERLY

Beverly to develop plans for train station area

By John Laidler

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT MARCH 05, 2019

Beverly will be developing plans for an upgrade of its downtown train station area as a result of a new \$150,000 capital grant awarded through the state's Housing Choice Communities program.

City officials said the money would be used to conduct a comprehensive study of the Beverly Depot train station area and to develop an improvement plan for its roads, sidewalks, crosswalks, and pedestrian and bicycling networks. The study will also create plans to undertake other safety and accessibility upgrades, and to install electric vehicle charging stations in the depot area.

The goal would be to transform the train station and adjacent area into a "multi-modal mobility hub," a single location where patrons can connect to a variety of transportation services, according to Catherine Barrett, the city's grants director.

Beverly was eligible to seek the competitive grant because it had been designated last spring as a state Housing Choice Community, a status

municipalities earn based on meeting numerical benchmarks for housing production and implementing best practices.

Selected communities have the opportunity to take advantage of state financial resources to support housing and other economic development, including exclusive access to new capital grants, and preferential treatment for many other state grant programs. Of the 67 initial communities that received the designation, Beverly was one of 19 to be recently selected to receive a capital grant.

© 2019 Boston Globe Media Partners, LLC